



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

— Animation Veterans Mike Dietz and Ed Schofield Form Pencil Test Studios.

Irvine, CA -- March 18th, 2010 — Veteran animation creatives and long time collaborators Mike Dietz and Ed Schofield have partnered once again to form a new animation production company, Pencil Test Studios.

The company's founders bring with them a combined experience of over 30 years producing quality animation for film, television, interactive entertainment and commercials. They have previously partnered with a variety of high profile clients such as Disney, Pixar, DreamWorks, and Nickelodeon. Dietz and Schofield have collaborated on numerous successful video game franchises including the cult classics Earthworm Jim and The Neverhood.

Early in his career, Dietz pioneered animation processes which allowed hand drawn animation to be incorporated into games. While using these techniques in conjunction with his passion for animation, Dietz set the benchmark for animation quality on such games as Disney's Aladdin and Earthworm Jim. Additionally, Dietz served as director for several episodes of the award winning animated sitcom 'The PJ's,' and co-directed the short 'Squirly Town' for Nickelodeon's Random Cartoon Show. Recently, Mike won an Annie award for his efforts as animation director on Pixar's 'Ratatouille' video game.

Schofield has directing and producing credits on a wide variety of projects and has held the position of studio animation director for both Foundation 9 and THQ's Heavy Iron Studios. Ed was the winner of the WAC award for 'best animation produced for games' for The Neverhood, and in 2009 was nominated for an Annie Award in the category of 'best animated videogame' for Pixar's 'WALL-E.'

Pencil Test Studios, based in Irvine CA, has already completed two TV commercials for Disney's theme park division, Disney Destinations, and is now gearing up to produce cinematics for a soon to be announced Nintendo Wii title. The studio is also developing an original IP to be released as a short film and a line of games for Apple's iPhone and other mobile devices later this year.

"Our expertise in creating CG, hand drawn and stop motion animation for a wide variety of media including film, television, and interactive makes Pencil Test Studios a perfect partner for clients wanting to tell stories and reach viewers across multiple platforms," says Schofield. Dietz adds, "We heart animation and it shows in our work."

Additional information on **Pencil Test Studios** can be found at www.pencilteststudios.com.

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